



# Improve access to dental care in Michigan

This common sense, cost-effective legislation will enable dentists to delegate routine procedures to dental therapists working under their supervision and allow dentists to focus their time and skills on more complicated, revenue generating procedures.

## Senate Bill 541 will:

**Provide** opportunities for previously underserved populations, many in rural areas, to gain access to routine dental care

**Allow** new providers to perform routine dental care: assessments, simple cavity preparation, restoration, simple extraction

**Require** practice under supervision of a dentist with detailed collaborative practice agreements

**Create** opportunities for dentists to grow their practices and reach more patients

**Establish** opportunities for dental professionals to continue their education, expand their skill set and grow their careers

**Include** direct referrals to supervising dentist; creating an ongoing relationship between patients and dental care providers

**Focus** the new workforce on our greatest access challenges, allowing increased capacity in safety net clinics and dental shortage areas

**Ensure** in all practice settings these new providers treat uninsured and Medicaid-insured patients

There is at least one **dental shortage area** in 77 of Michigan's 83 counties



■ Dental Shortage Area



[midentalaccess.org](http://midentalaccess.org)

Sources: Oral Health in Michigan, April 2015; Center for Health Workforce Studies, School of Public Health, University at Albany. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Data Portal, Oral Health, Michigan: Adults Aged 65+ Who Have Lost 6 or more of Their Natural Teeth Due to Tooth Decay or Gum Disease, 2014," [www.cdc.gov/oralhealthdata/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealthdata/index.html). George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health using Medicaid Analytic eXtract (MAX) files by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). National Association of Dental Plans Michigan Dental Benefits Fact Sheet 2016. Health Resources and Services Administration, Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) Statistics, as of April 2017, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHSS), Count Your Smiles, 2015-2016. Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System 2014. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data 2004-2014, analyzed by MDHHS.



The MI Dental Access Coalition thanks you for your thoughtful consideration of Senate Bill 541. If passed, we believe dental therapists will be a valued part of oral health care teams that want to provide much-needed access to underserved populations across our state.

AARP Michigan  
The Arc Michigan  
LeadingAge  
Michigan Association of Health Plans  
Michigan Association of School Nurses  
Michigan Association of United Ways  
Michigan's Children  
Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness  
Michigan Community Action

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health  
Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association  
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition  
Michigan League for Public Policy  
Michigan Primary Care Association  
National Association of Social Workers-Michigan  
School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan  
Wolverine Dental Hygienists' Society  
Wolverine Human Services



To learn more about how dental therapists can help provide access to care visit  
[MIDentalAccess.org](http://MIDentalAccess.org)